



## Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

was established on April 22, 1952, to provide telephone service to rural communities in areas deemed unfeasible by the national companies. We were established on the principals of service, excellence, and value to enable rural Texans to compete and produce such as the urban areas. Valley Telephone Cooperative and its subsidiaries are known as the **VTX1 Companies** and provide copper, fiber, and fixed-wireless broadband access to provide internet, television, security, and telephone services for homes, schools, and small businesses throughout South Texas – plus fiber transport services for carriers and universities.

**Connectivity for Community Growth** - VTX1's broadband network extends from south of San Antonio to the lower Rio Grande Valley serving members and customers in a **10,000+** square mile service area. Our clients range from locally-owned businesses and remote farms and ranches to state of the art educational facilities, medical institutions, and world-renowned integrated communications providers.

**Employment Opportunities** - VTX1 employs over **180** local residents providing competitive pay and comprehensive benefit packages. VTX1 is the third largest employer in Willacy County, Texas.

**Community Service** - VTX1 funds **20 Scholarships** each year and supports other important community programs and measures such as **Teach for America** and local **Literacy Boards** to help aid in the development of youth leadership.

**Capital Investments** - VTX1 has invested **\$10M+** annually in new capital investments to provide state of the art broadband, data, security, and telecommunications services and will continue to do so if the USF continues at current levels.



## We Need Your Support

- Address the High Cost Program's arbitrary \$2 billion budget for small rural telcos.
- Fully fund the ACAM and Rate of Return (RoR) high-cost mechanisms at the FCC's originally proposed funding level.
- At a minimum incorporate an inflationary adjustment for the High-Cost Program's budget to put it on level playing fields with other USF programs.
- Expedite permitting process on Federal lands to reduce costs and delays of building out broadband projects.
- Providing video has become more costly due to increasing content costs and retransmission costs Broadcasters are also moving to the Next Generation ATSC 3.0 standard, which will increase costs for small providers.
- RUS low-interest loans are an integral part of the rural broadband success. The Administration has a proposed 21% reduction in funding for USDA, which could affect RUS.
- Avoid using government funds to deploy duplicative networks in rural areas. Healthcare institutions, schools, libraries, FirstNet, and municipalities should work with local incumbent telcos prior to pursuing other options.

**Please help us secure the future of rural telecommunications and broadband services.**

**For more information, please contact:**

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